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(Original Signature of Member)

110TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. _____

To establish a program to assist Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern Sudan.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. WOLF introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

To establish a program to assist Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern Sudan.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Return of the Lost
5 Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) The 21-year civil war between the North
4 and the South in Sudan, which ended with the sign-
5 ing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement on Janu-
6 ary 9, 2005, caused many Sudanese people to flee
7 their homes and seek refuge elsewhere in Sudan, in
8 neighboring countries, and even in the United
9 States.

10 (2) Approximately 3,800 Sudanese boys and
11 girls were separated from their parents during this
12 war and fled on foot to Ethiopia, walking more than
13 1,000 kilometers on their four-month journey, and
14 then fled again to Kenya to avoid forcible repatri-
15 ation to Sudan.

16 (3) These Sudanese refugees suffered tremen-
17 dous hardships during their journey, and hundreds
18 drowned, were eaten by wild animals, killed by mili-
19 tary forces, or overcome with dehydration or starva-
20 tion along the way.

21 (4) Many of these Sudanese refugees were
22 granted priority resettlement status in the United
23 States. These Sudanese boys and girls are commonly
24 known as the “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan”.

25 (5) As is common for refugees, the Lost Boys
26 and Lost Girls of Sudan, upon their arrival in the

1 United States, struggled to adjust to the dramatic
2 change in their surroundings.

3 (6) The story of the Lost Boys and Lost Girls
4 of Sudan has been documented in a number of books
5 and films in the United States.

6 (7) The Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan
7 have acquired a reputation for being a resilient and
8 highly motivated group of individuals, with many of
9 them gaining employment and pursuing higher edu-
10 cation simultaneously.

11 (8) Many Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan
12 have publicly expressed their interest in eventually
13 returning to their homeland to contribute to recon-
14 struction efforts following the end of the 21-year
15 civil war in Sudan.

16 **SEC. 3. PROGRAM TO ASSIST SUDANESE REFUGEES IN THE**
17 **UNITED STATES KNOWN AS THE “LOST BOYS**
18 **AND LOST GIRLS OF SUDAN” TO VOLUN-**
19 **TARILY RETURN TO SOUTHERN SUDAN TO**
20 **ASSIST IN RECONSTRUCTION EFFORTS IN**
21 **SOUTHERN SUDAN.**

22 (a) STATEMENT OF PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of
23 this section to establish a program to assist Sudanese ref-
24 ugees in the United States known as the “Lost Boys and
25 Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return to southern

1 Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern
2 Sudan.

3 (b) PROGRAM REQUIRED.—From the amount appro-
4 priated under subsection (g) for any fiscal year, the Direc-
5 tor of Foreign Assistance shall, in accordance with sub-
6 section (c), establish and carry out a program to assist
7 Sudanese refugees in the United States known as the
8 “Lost Boys and Lost Girls of Sudan” to voluntarily return
9 to southern Sudan to assist in reconstruction efforts in
10 southern Sudan.

11 (c) ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS.—An individual
12 shall be eligible to participate in the program under this
13 section if the individual—

14 (1) is an alien who—

15 (A) is a national of Sudan;

16 (B) was admitted to the United States as
17 a refugee under section 207 of the Immigration
18 Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157) from Kakuma
19 refugee camp in Kenya, and identified by the
20 Secretary of State under the worldwide refugee
21 application processing priority system as ‘Pri-
22 ority-2’ (P-2), a group of special concern to the
23 United States;

24 (C) at the time of admission to the United
25 States had not attained the age of 21; and

1 (D) has been continuously physically
2 present in the United States from the date of
3 the alien's admission to the United States
4 through the date of application for participation
5 in the program under this section, except that
6 the alien shall not be considered to have failed
7 to maintain continuous physical presence by
8 reasons of an absence, or absences, from the
9 United States for any period or periods
10 amounting in the aggregate to not more than
11 180 days; and

12 (2) commits to returning to southern Sudan for
13 a period of not less than three years for purposes of
14 contributing knowledge gained through higher edu-
15 cation and professional experience in the United
16 States to assist in reconstruction efforts in southern
17 Sudan, as approved by the Director of Foreign As-
18 sistance for purposes of this section.

19 (d) AWARD AMOUNT.—

20 (1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of Foreign As-
21 sistance may, from funds appropriated under sub-
22 section (g), make available amounts necessary to
23 cover travel, lodging, living, student loan repayment,
24 and other costs that are determined to be appro-

1 priate and associated with participation in the pro-
2 gram under this section.

3 (2) AWARD BASIS.—The Director of Foreign
4 Assistance shall make payments to individuals who
5 participate in the program under this section on a
6 first-come first-served basis, subject to the avail-
7 ability of appropriations.

8 (e) REGULATIONS.—The Director of Foreign Assist-
9 ance shall issue such regulations as may be necessary to
10 carry out the provisions of this section.

11 (f) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Con-
12 gress that, in carrying out the program under this section,
13 the Director of Foreign Assistance should—

14 (1) review programs similar to the program
15 under this section, including programs carried out
16 by the United States Agency for International De-
17 velopment in Sudan, the International Organization
18 on Migration’s “Return of Talent Programme”, and
19 any other similar or related programs for purposes
20 of replicating best practices in the program under
21 this section;

22 (2) consult with the Lost Boys/Lost Girls Orga-
23 nization in the United States for purposes of identi-
24 fying interested and eligible candidates for the pro-
25 gram under this section;

1 (3) seek cooperation with local and inter-
2 national organizations in southern Sudan to most ef-
3 fectively identify sectors, programs, and projects in
4 which the talents and skills of individuals who par-
5 ticipate in the program under this section will be
6 most useful to reconstruction efforts in southern
7 Sudan; and

8 (4) seek to ensure that individuals who partici-
9 pate in the program under this section are permitted
10 to retain their immigration status under United
11 States law.

12 (g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—To carry
13 out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated
14 to the Director of Foreign Assistance such sums as may
15 be necessary for fiscal year 2008 and for each of the five
16 succeeding fiscal years.